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# Agri-News

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## **TENNESSEE FARMERS REPORT CROP ACREAGE FOR 2005**

Based on a survey recently conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS), farmers planted more cotton and soybeans this year, while reducing corn, wheat, and burley tobacco acreage. Favorable spring weather allowed producers to plant their crops on schedule with only minor disruptions. This was especially true for cotton farmers, who had virtually completed planting by the third week in May. “We have seen a definite shift from corn to cotton this year, especially in our major cotton producing counties,” stated TASS Director Debra Kenerson. Crop acreages and expected changes from last year are as follows: **Cotton**, 630,000 acres, up 19 percent; **Soybeans**, 1.23 million acres, up 2 percent; **Corn**, 620,000 acres, down 60,000 acres; **Tobacco**, 23,260 acres, down 23 percent; and **Hay**, 1.88 million acres, down 3 percent.

### **COTTON ACREAGE AT HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1995**

Between 2001 and 2004 the State’s cotton acreage has dropped a total of 90,000 acres, but the crop has bounced back in a big way this year. Factors such as normal crop rotation, boll weevil eradication, and ideal planting conditions have played a major role in cotton’s resurgence. Planted acreage for 2005 is forecast at 630,000 acres, up 100,000 from last year and the highest level in the State since 1995. The recent warm, dry weather has benefitted the crop, as development through the end of June was about a week ahead of the normal pace. As of the week ending June 26, three-fourths of the cotton acreage had reached the squaring stage and the crop was rated in mostly good condition.

### **SOYBEAN ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR**

Despite rust concerns, Tennessee’s 2005 soybean acreage is estimated at 1.23 million acres, up 2 percent from last year’s 1.21 million. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.20 million acres, also up 2 percent from 2004. Producers planted more early season varieties and fewer double crop beans this season. The percent of acreage planted following another harvested crop dropped from 32 percent in 2004 to 15 percent in 2005. In addition, since there were no rain delays and soil temperatures were favorable, most single crop beans were planted ahead of schedule. Soybean planting began the last week of April, and by the end of June nearly all of the crop was in the ground and emerged, about a week ahead of the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly good condition.

### **LOWEST CORN ACREAGE SINCE 1993; SORGHUM UP SLIGHTLY**

The State’s corn acreage is at estimated 620,000 acres, down 70,000 acres from acreage intended earlier, and 9 percent less than a year ago. If realized, this will tie the record low previously set in 1990 and 1991. Growers expect to harvest 560,000 acres for grain, 55,000 acres less than last year and the lowest since 1995. Planting was virtually completed by mid-May. Acreage is down significantly in the major cotton producing counties and unchanged to down slightly elsewhere. Currently, 29 percent of the crop has entered the silking stage and the crop was rated in mostly good condition. Area planted to sorghum in 2005 is estimated at 22,000 acres, up 2,000 from 2004 and 7,000 acres from earlier intentions. Area for grain harvest is estimated at 20,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from last year.

### **BURLEY ACREAGE DOWN SHARPLY**

The State’s 2005 burley tobacco acreage is expected to decline 29 percent from a year ago to 17,000 acres. Tennessee tobacco growers intend to harvest a total of 23,260 acres, down 7,000 acres from a year ago. By type, harvested area and change from 2004 for Tennessee’s tobacco crops are as follows: Type 22 **Eastern dark-fired**, 5,300 acres, unchanged from last year; Type 23 **Western dark-fired**, 420 acres, unchanged; and Type 35 **dark air-cured**, 540 acres, also unchanged from 2004. As of June 26, the majority of the intended acreage had been transplanted, on pace with last year and normal. Despite reports of disease pressure, such as black shank and tomato spotted wilt virus, the crop was rated in mostly good condition.

WHEAT ACREAGE DOWN ONE THIRD

The 2005 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 270,000 acres, down 130,000 acres from the previous year. Anticipated area for harvest as grain is 170,000 acres, down 110,000 acres from the 2004 total. The problem for wheat growers was two-fold this year. Either farmers were not able to sow as much wheat as they planned due to weather delays in the Fall or once it was sown; wet conditions and frost hindered proper development. As of June 26, eighty-eight percent of the crop had been harvested, ahead of last year and the normal pace.

HAY ACREAGE DOWN FROM 2004

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.88 million acres of hay in 2005, down 3 percent from last year. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 25,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from a year earlier and the lowest recorded acreage since 1930. All other hay is estimated at 1.85 million acres, down 3 percent from 2004. Tennessee’s hay harvest got off to a slow start due to cool, wet weather during late April and into early May. Drier conditions followed and farmers were able to make up for most of the early delays. By early June, a wet weather pattern set in again, hampering harvest progress while also lowering quality. As of June 26, nearly a third of the alfalfa hay acreage had been cut twice. Both alfalfa and other hay have remained in mostly good condition throughout the growing season.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS: TENNESSEE AND U.S., 2004 - 2005

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2005 / 2004
1,000 Acres			Percent		
TENNESSEE					
Corn	680	620	615	560	91
Cotton	530	630	525		-
Soybeans	1,210	1,230	1,180	1,200	102
Winter Wheat	400	270	280	170	61
Sorghum	20	22	17	20	118
Hay, all	-	-	1,935	1,875	97
Alfalfa	-	-	35	25	71
All other	-	-	1,900	1,850	97
Tobacco, all	-	-	30.26	23.26	77
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	5.30	5.30	100
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	.42	.42	100
Burley (31)	-	-	24.00	17.00	71
One sucker (35)	-	-	.54	.54	100
UNITED STATES					
Corn	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,368	101
Cotton <sup>2</sup>	13,658.6	14,026.0	13,057.0		-
Soybeans	75,208	73,303	73,958	72,384	98
Winter Wheat	43,350	41,408	34,462	34,271	99
Sorghum	7,486	7,013	6,517	6,030	93
Hay, all	-	-	61,916	61,723	100
Alfalfa	-	-	21,707	22,118	102
All other	-	-	40,209	39,605	98
Tobacco, all	-	-	408.04	316.86	78
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	8.00	8.70	109
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	3.02	3.42	113
Burley (31)	-	-	153.15	107.60	70
One sucker (35)	-	-	2.89	2.84	98

<sup>1</sup>Estimate to be released August 12, 2005. <sup>2</sup>U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.